

Four Mile Bridge ^{WYOMING HISTORIC TROSS BRIDGE SURVEY}
Spanning Big Horn River on Wyoming Highway 173
Thermopolis vicinity
Hot Springs County
Wyoming

HAER No. WY-⁵⁹~~47-E~~

HAER
WYO,
9-THERM.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Four Mile Bridge

HAER No. WY-⁵⁹~~07-B~~

HAER
WYO.
9-THERM.V.
1-

Location: Spanning Big Horn River, on Wyoming Highway 173,
2.9 miles south of Thermopolis, in Hot Springs County,
Wyoming

UTM: 12.726265.4831445
Quad: Wedding of Waters

Date of Construction: 1927-1928

Builder/Designer: Charles M. Smith of Thermopolis

Present Owners: Wyoming State Highway Department
P. O. Box 1708
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-9019

Present Use: Highway Bridge - Vehicular Traffic

Significance: The Four Mile Bridge is one of only two rigid connected
Pennsylvania Through trusses with substruts still
functional on the state and county roads in Wyoming.
With a simple span of 175 feet, it is the longer of the
two. As such, it is an uncommon truss type for a
highway bridge, more usually associated with railroad
spans, and is one of Wyoming's more significant
trusses.

Historians: Clayton B. Fraser and Richard G. Ewig
November 1981

~~NOTE: For more general information, see Wyoming Truss Bridges Survey,
HAER No. WY-17~~

I. HISTORY

The Highway Department reopened Federal Aid Project 90 in 1927 and, that April, awarded the construction contract for this bridge over Big Horn River to Charles M. Smith of Thermopolis.¹

II. DESCRIPTION

The Four Mile Bridge is a single span, steel rigid connected, seven panel Pennsylvania Through truss with substruts. It has a simple span of 175 feet and a total length of 195 feet, with a 20-foot roadway width.

The abutments are full retaining concrete with a deck of steel stringers and concrete decking. Top chords are two channels connected by cover plate and lacing; bottom chords are two angles connected by batten plates; verticals are four angles, and diagonals are angles. The structure also has a lattice guardrail.²

¹ Wyoming State Highway Department Commissioners' Minutes, April 5, 1927, Wyoming State Highway Department, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

² Wyoming State Highway Drawings. Wyoming State Highway Department.